

in the midst of which the buildings of the school nestle — most of them wood, some steam heated, but all electric lighted from the school's own plant, built, in the main, by student workmen, the brick and lumber used in construction being manufactured on the grounds. The residence of Principal Russell and the fine memorial chapel were erected by student labor. The few acres of the initial purchase have grown by successive additions until the school now owns 1,600 acres of land, much of it arable, with plenty of water, and pasturage adapted to the crops of that section of the state, and the remainder in woods, whence the school derives lumber for building operations, and wood for fuel.

St. Paul School furnishes the town with electric light from its own plant, and is erecting many of the best business and residential structures of Lawrenceville. The school has about five hundred students, from twenty-six states and territories, Cuba, Porto Rico and Africa. It has over two thousand undergraduates and three hundred graduates. There are twenty-seven industrial and school departments, forty-eight officers and instructors.

Social and Economic Work

Through the influence exerted by the school, and the example of self-help, the colored people of Brunswick County, in which the school is located, have been induced to purchase land, build homes, start bank accounts, and improve their condition and surroundings. When the school began its work, the total real and personal property of the Negroes in that section did not exceed \$40,000, and their entire realty ownership was comprised in less than five thousand acres of land. To-day these same Negroes own 50,000 acres of land, assessed at \$332,000, and their personal property, according to the report of the auditor of public accounts for the state, amounts to \$119,000.

The log cabins have given place to framed houses, neatly built, and in not a few instances tastefully furnished. The churches of all denominations are, as a rule, well-built framed structures, painted, and in some instances have organs and carpets. There is not a log church in Brunswick County. The farms are well kept and stocked. During 1908 many farmers made a profit, which, in most instances, went for improvement of the farm or home, or was added to the bank account. There are forty public schools in the county, with 3,200 children enrolled.

Through the Farmers' Conference, which has been organized, much attention has been given to matters of material progress — the home, the farm, lengthening the school term, betterment of morals, repression of crime, and other matters relating to the general welfare of the people in their efforts to become good citizens and respectable members of society.

Through this Farmers' Conference there has been such influence that thirty of the forty public schools of the county have had their terms extended two months, in addition to the county term of five, making seven months in all. In response to an offer made to give one month from the Jeannes fund to each community that raised one month's salary itself, thirty communities have reported, with more to follow. The sum of \$600 has been raised for this purpose.

The white people of the community testify freely as to the value and effect of Negro education, as shown in the great transformation in the lives and character of the Negro people around them, since the advent of the St. Paul Normal and Industrial School. The recent report of the sheriff showed that there was not a prisoner in the jail out of a Negro population of 10,000.

After Careers of Graduates

The school has turned out some very creditable young men and women, who are reflecting credit alike upon themselves and their alma mater. The training at St. Paul proceeds on the idea of the highest Christian education, coupled with a practical normal and industrial training. So successful has this training been that the attorney for the commonwealth declared in a recent address that not a single student of the school had ever been before him charged with crime, and that the records showed that no student had ever been arrested or tried for crime. In regard to workmen sent out by the school, *The Brunswick Gazette* of October 15, 1908, said: "We can point with pride to many of the largest, handsomest and most imposing business and residential structures in the town, which were put up by the workmen trained at St. Paul. We feel safe in saying that the number of skilled negro workmen in the county has been materially increased as the result of the practical nature of the training at St. Paul. We can name over a score of houses of all kinds put up entirely by the school's apprentice workmen; that is to say, not only every detail of the building, but in many instances even the brick, lumber and material entering into their construction, being manufactured by them."